

Claims of the Invention

1. An adhesive applicator for applying medical adhesives to an ear comprising:  
a body having:
  - a handle having a terminus;
  - a trigger pivotally connected to the handle through a joint which allows the trigger to pivot about the joint when the trigger is squeezed;
  - a reservoir having a first end and a second end;
  - a dispensing mechanism operatively connected at one end to the trigger and at the other end to the reservoir; and  
a catheter or cannula fluidly connected to the second end of the reservoir through which the adhesive is expressed.
2. The applicator of claim 1 wherein the handle comprises a ring at the terminus sized to allow a finger or a thumb to be placed in the ring.
3. The applicator of claim 1 wherein the reservoir is cylindrical and wherein the dispensing mechanism comprises:  
a cylindrical plunger located at least partially in the reservoir and dimensioned so that the outer diameter of the plunger is approximately equal to the inner diameter of the reservoir,  
a rod having a first end attached to the trigger and a second end attached to the plunger, the rod capable of moving the plunger into and out of the reservoir as the trigger is moved around the joint.
4. The applicator of claim 3 wherein dispensing mechanism is a ratchet mechanism comprising a series of teeth or grooves on a portion of the rod and a process on the upper end of the trigger that engages the teeth or groove whereby movement of the trigger causes the process to engage a tooth or groove and move it a finite, predetermined distance when the trigger is pulled or depressed.

5. The applicator of claim 1 wherein the dispensing mechanism is a ratchet mechanism.
6. The applicator of claim 1 wherein the reservoir is fixed to the body.
7. The applicator of claim 1 wherein the reservoir is removably connected to the body.
8. The applicator of claim 7 wherein the reservoir is removably connected to the body by means selected from the group consisting of a compression fitting or a screw fitting.
9. The applicator of claim 1 wherein the reservoir is made of a material that is transparent or translucent.
10. The applicator of claim 1 wherein the cannula or catheter is permanently affixed to the reservoir.
11. The applicator of claim 1 wherein the cannula or catheter is removably attached to the reservoir.
12. The applicator of claim 11 wherein the cannula or catheter is removably attached to the reservoir by means selected from the group consisting of screw fitting, compression fitting or luer-lock fitting.
13. The applicator of claim 1 wherein the cannula or catheter is preferably between about 10 to 50 gauge.
14. The applicator of claim 13 wherein the cannula or catheter is more preferably about 25 gauge.
15. The applicator of claim 1 further comprising an adhesive contained in the reservoir.

16. The applicator of claim 15 wherein the adhesive is a cyanoacrylate adhesive.
17. The applicator of claim 15 wherein the adhesive is a fibrin-based adhesive.
18. A method of treating maladies of the ear comprising the steps of:  
providing an adhesive applicator for applying medical adhesives to an ear comprising:  
a body having:
  - a handle having a terminus;
  - a trigger pivotally connected to the handle through a joint which allows the trigger to pivot about the joint when the trigger is squeezed;
  - a reservoir having a first end and a second end;
  - a dispensing mechanism operatively connected at one end to the trigger and at the other end to the reservoir; and
  - a catheter or cannula fluidly connected to the second end of the reservoir through which the adhesive is expressed, the catheter or cannula having a tip;priming the applicator with adhesive or other media prior to use;  
placing the tip of the catheter or cannula in contact with or near a surface in the ear;  
and  
pulling or otherwise moving the trigger to interact with the dispensing mechanism and the dispensing mechanism to interact with the reservoir to cause the expression of an amount of media or adhesive to be expressed from the tip of the catheter or cannula.
19. A method of performing medical treatments selected from the group consisting of sealing blood vessels, nerves, bones, bowel, and other tissues or applying media to locations inside or outside the body comprising the steps of:  
providing an adhesive applicator for applying medical adhesives to an ear comprising:  
a body having:
  - a handle having a terminus;
  - a trigger pivotally connected to the handle through a joint which allows the trigger to pivot about the joint when the trigger is squeezed;

a reservoir having a first end and a second end;

a dispensing mechanism operatively connected at one end to the trigger and at the other end to the reservoir; and

a catheter or cannula fluidly connected to the second end of the reservoir through which the adhesive is expressed, the catheter or cannula having a tip;

priming the applicator with adhesive or other media prior to use;

placing the tip of the catheter or cannula in contact with or near a surface in or on a portion of a body; and

pulling or otherwise moving the trigger to interact with the dispensing mechanism and the dispensing mechanism to interact with the reservoir to cause the expression of an amount of media or adhesive to be expressed from the tip of the catheter or cannula.